

# Women changing America

## Spotlight on some of Warren's outstanding female Airmen



Photo by Liz Saucier

Col. Jodie Bliss 90th Missile Maintenance Group

**What is your hometown?**

Sunset, Utah

**Who is your hero and why?**

My father. He retired from civil service at Hill AFB where he worked in CE and kept the steam heat system working across the base. He served on active duty in the Navy and retired from the Naval Reserves; he served in the Construction Battalion; and those were only two of the five jobs he worked! He set the standard for work ethics.

He was straightforward, honest as the day is long and someone you could count on. He served as a role model for me and held me to his high standards.

**Why is Women's History Month important?**

The past is filled with lessons learned and examples of courage, stamina, and perseverance. It's important to celebrate and remember those who have gone before us.

Their stories motivate, guide, and inspire us.

**What's the best part of your job?**

Helping to improve Airmen, whether it's recognizing a job well done, or setting Airmen up for success.

**What are your hobbies?**

Cooking, reading, stained glass

**What has been the most defining moment in your career?**

I believe we are a composite of our past, so rather than one moment, several opportunities define my career; selection into missile maintenance rather than the personnel field when I was commissioned; a long assignment to Hill where I picked up a secondary AFSC in acquisition, procured the "new" transporter erector and learned how both the ICBM depot and SPO work; selection to the Commander's Action Group at AFSPC; working space launch at Cape Canaveral and dealing with 3 failed missions; squadron command; staff work at the Pentagon setting the foundation for 21M Force Development and identifying capabilities and shortfalls for the Nuclear Response Mission; and now group command.

**If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

The Founding Fathers and Hap Arnold--I would ask them what they envisioned when they embarked on their journey to create America and the Air Force and discuss where we are today in relation to that vision.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon

Mary Jane Brady, 90th Civil Engineer Squadron

**What is your hometown?**

Goldsboro, North Carolina

**Who is your hero and why?**

My Momma. She is the embodiment of everything I value: grace, compassion, intelligence, humor and authenticity. She's a Steel Magnolia.

**Why is Women's History Month important?**

Women's contributions are often different than men's, though no less significant. That reality has often been obscured or misunderstood.

**What's the best part of your job?**

Having the privilege and the responsibility to protect this National Historic Landmark. Also, having the opportunity to work with some of the nations' true American heroes.

**What are your hobbies?**

Gardening and needlework.

**What has been the most defining moment in your career?**

Realizing that working with the palette of creation is a fragile trust.

**If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

George Clooney, because he's hot and a nice single Catholic guy.



Photo by Liz Saucier

Chief Master Sgt. Mary Dixon 90th Mission Support Group

**What is your hometown?**

Stanley, Wisconsin

**Who is your hero and why?**

All 4 of my sisters! They are survivors no matter what life has thrown at them.

**Why is Women's History Month important?**

Serves as a reminder of the accomplishments/achievements of women.

**What's the best part of your job?**

Dealing with all the great folks in the Mission Support Group and across the wing!

**What are your hobbies?**

Gardening, quilting and reading

**What has been the most defining moment in your career?**

Getting the go ahead to create and run the Air Force's first Computer Aided Drafting School

**If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

Condeleza Rice—She is strong, smart and charismatic



Photo by Liz Saucier

Tech. Sgt. Mehl Porter, 20th Air Force

**What is your hometown?**

Grew up in Great Falls, Montana

**Who is your hero and why?**

I would say my heroes are each and every service member serving in a forward location. The sacrifices they make daily being away from loved ones, in austere locations while performing their duties under seemingly constant danger makes me proud to say I serve with them.

**Why is Women's History Month important?**

It's important in the same way all the heritage/history months are. They all help highlight the successes of those that have come before us. And more so than celebrating those accomplishments, it helps educate girls like my daughter that the sky's the limit if she works toward a goal.

**What's the best part of your job?**

I know it's a cliché, but it really is helping people. I believe I do have the best job in the Air Force and being able to clear up personnel issues for someone so he/she can focus on the mission is important.

**What are your hobbies?**

Spending time with my kids, reading, cooking and hanging out with friends

**What has been the most defining moment in your career?**

When I deployed, I had the opportunity to caravan cross-country through Saudi Arabia, only to end up in the middle of nowhere. We built a base from the ground up. That deployment, in its entirety, showed me how important every career field is and what we can accomplish when we work as a team.

**If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

I could name a hundred people from history, but truthfully I'd like to have dinner with my best friends Paula Toutges and Tommy Nissel - we have been best friends since early in our careers, and I miss them so much.



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Rachel Beard, 319th Missile Squadron

**What is your hometown?**

St. Peters, Missouri

**Who is your hero and why?**

My mother, because she is a strong woman who is my role model for being a military wife, mother and career woman. She has been able to juggle all those things for 28 years. She is so amazing in all she does and showed me that if I work hard and treat people with respect I will always achieve my goals.

**Why is Women's History Month important?**

To honor the amazing women in all our lives.

**What's the best part of your job?**

I get to work with great people and just being in the military, there is no better life, at least that I know of. You can serve your country and still make a decent life for you and your family.

**What are your hobbies?**

Reading, hiking, walking my dog and spending what little free time I have with my husband.

**What has been the most defining moment in your career?**

Becoming a flight commander because it showed me that hard work is noticed and I am so grateful for the chance that my commander has given me and the faith that she has shown in letting me be a leader for her.

**If you could sit down and have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

My husband, because we don't get to do it very often lately and he is my best friend and the person I love to be with the most.